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NOTE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The attached letter dated 28 May 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations was addressed to the President of the Security Council. In accordance with the request therein contained, the letter is being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

Annex

Letter dated 28 May 1991 from the Permanent Observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the Statement of 27 May 1991 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I request that this letter, together with the enclosed Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) PAK Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

Enclosure

Statement issued on 27 May 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Korea's entry into the United Nations is a crucial issue directly related to the vital interests of our people who desire to rejoin the severed blood vein of the divided country and the nation and achieve reunification.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has consistently respected the Charter of the United Nations aimed at the preservation of international peace and security and the development of friendly relations among nations and hoped to join the United Nations.

Our Republic, a full-fledged independent and sovereign state, is fully qualified to become a Member State of the United Nations.

However, under the specific conditions of our divided country, we have considered our United Nations membership in the light of national reunification in conformity with the desire of the whole nation and made patient efforts to resolve this issue under all circumstances in the interest of the cause of reunification.

It is from this standpoint that, with regard to the United Nations membership, the Government of our Republic has consistently called for entry into the United Nations as one reunified Korea after the establishment of confederation and advanced a reasonable proposal that the north and south should share one seat, not seeking separate membership, if the north and south should join it before reunification.

Hoping that the north and the south would debate on the issue related to the United Nations first and submit the results to the United Nations, we proposed this issue as an important agenda item at the north-south high-level talks and made every sincere effort towards its solution.

Many countries of the world have also hoped that the issue of Korea's United Nations membership would be settled in favour of reunification through north-south consultations.

The south Korean authorities, however, insisting on their splittist idea of United Nations membership, have not only turned down our proposal for one-seat United Nations membership at the north-south high-level talks but also stated that they would no more talk about this issue at the forthcoming round of the talks.

Moreover, the south Korean authorities recently made their "unilateral entry into the United Nations" their policy and went the length of formally submitting a "Government Memorandum" to the Security Council of the United

Nations in this connection to attain their unilateral purpose, taking advantage of the rapid changes in the international situation.

Since the north-south high-level talks have been brought to a deadlock by the south Korean side and it is unpredictable when the talks would be resumed in view of the present situation of south Korea, we had contacts between the permanent observers of the north and south to the United Nations, for an early settlement of the United Nations problem.

At these contacts, the south Korean side repeated its contention that the policy of the "unilateral United Nations membership" is inalterable and left no room for any compromise.

The fact led us to clearly confirm that the scheme of the south Korean authorities for "unilateral United Nations membership" is adamantine.

The south Korean authorities are committing the never-to-be condoned treason to divide Korea into two parts through the United Nations arena by trying to force their way into the United Nations against the desire of the entire Korean nation for reunification.

The south Korean authorities would never be able to evade the responsibility for this before the history, the nation and the posterity. As the south Korean authorities insist on their unilateral United Nations membership, if we leave this alone, important issues related to the interests of the entire Korean nations would be dealt with in a biased manner on the United Nations rostrum and this would entail grave consequences.

We can never let it go that way.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has no alternative but to enter the United Nations at the present stage as a step to tide over such temporary difficulties created by the south Korean authorities.

Proceeding from its consistent standpoint of supporting the United Nations Charter, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will submit an official application for its United Nations membership to the Secretary-General of the United Nations through appropriate formalities.

This is a decision we have taken under unavoidable circumstances created by the splittist moves of the south Korean authorities.

Today's abnormal situation under which the north and south of Korea have to apply for United Nations membership separately is another big difficulty in the way of achieving national reunification.

The people from all walks of life and the opposition forces of south Korea have struggled against south Korea's "unilateral United Nations membership", linking our country's entry into the United Nations with the prospect of its reunification. In this they sought to prevent the permanent division of the country and the nation and accomplish reunification.

The new difficulty created in the way to reunification by the south Korean authorities will certainly be overcome by the unified efforts of the whole nation and its irresistible desire for reunification.

The present-day situation in which the north and the south of Korea have to apply for the United Nations membership separately must never remain unchanged permanently.

We will remain invariable in our hope that the north and south will occupy one seat at the United Nations with a single state nomenclature.

The Government of the Republic will actively strive on the United Nations rostrum to see that the problem of Korea's reunification and international issues will be resolved in the interest of our nation and in conformity with the requirements of world peace and security.

27 May 1991
Pyongyang